

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the claims of the present application are respectfully requested.

Applicants acknowledge, with thanks, the Examiner's indication that Claims 3-5 and 8-10 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In light of this indication, and to expedite prosecution of the instant application, applicants have rewritten Claim 3 in independent form including the limitations from Claim 1. In view of this amendment, applicants have cancelled Claim 1 and have changed the dependencies of Claims 2, 6-9, 12, and 13 from Claim 1 to Claim 3.

In addition to the above, applicants have also added new Claims 30 and 31 and have cancelled Claims 14-29. Applicants observe that new Claim 30 is a combination of Claim 1 and allowable Claim 8, while new Claim 31 is a combination of Claim 1 and allowable Claim 9.

Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 2-13, 30 and 31 are allowable over the art of record in the present application. Thus, since the aforementioned claims include features that are deemed allowable, the rejection to Claims 1, 2, 6, 7, and 11-13 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by Mori et al. (JP 2001-055512) has been obviated. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the instant anticipation rejection are thus respectfully requested.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is firmly believed that the present application is in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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